# INSIDE



# FRONT.

HARD CORE JOURNAL

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In my individual case, the cost in terms of time, money, self-respect, and clarity of thought is not worth paying for the things many people consider desirable, whether it be television, fashionable consumption, promiscuous sex, social status, chemical abuse, or irrational religious faith. I have never enjoyed those things so much as the personal achievement and self-control they destroy. I have never sacrificed myself to them and I never will; my life reflects these words. I could not change this characteristic of myself if I wanted to. I do not claim to know what is best for anyone but myself.

## Welcome to Inside Front

I have long term plans and goals for this magazine. There's an information gap in the hardcore scene, and this journal is my attempt to solve that problem and to help to keep the music I love alive. I also aim to steal back straightedge hardcore from the pampered, soft, lazy, trend-following, fashionable, immature, crybaby, pathetic fucking losers who are trying to claim it for their own. Once again straightedge will be a personal approach to life, open to anyone who is truly sincere and dedicated to the improvement of him- or her-self; it will no longer be stained by the embarassing presence of those who neither know what they want nor what it means to work for it, or of those who want to reduce a noble philosophy to a conformist peer group. Time is short, you fucking sheep...

#### COLUMNS

As you may have noticed, I now have columnists. From now on each issue of Inside Front will include ideas and information provided by someone other than myself--so, obviously, don't confuse their ideas with mine. I'm just interested in printing views that readers might not get to see anywhere else, in hopes of forcing people to think, God forbid. Chances are if I want you to do a column for me I'll ask you about it myself, but if you think you have a lot to offer suggest it to me. I'm looking for useful information and truly controversial, underrepresented ideas, no generic dogma, emo weeping, or immature bullshit.

#### LETTERS

In #7 we'll also be accepting intellegently written letters that have something really useful to say, and do it concisely. I don't know how much space we'll have, so no guarantees, but if you send something great, expect to see it. To weed out the lazy, the illiterate, and the immature, all letters must be typed and written in essay form like a high school book report.

## INLAND EMPIRE CATALOGUE

ISSUE 7:Out before May 1, 1995. Interviews with DOUGHNUTS, ABHINANDA,

OVERCAST, and many others, a "how-to" column by Tony/VICTORY on
running a small label, other famous columnists, world hardcore news
and scene reports, lots of demo/record/zine reviews, advertising, all
sorts of other useful information. Full size and twice as thick as #6.

3 stamps USA/\$2.00 world (Wholesale: 20 copies for \$5.00 US/\$10.00 world)

- ISSUE 5:Interviews with STRIFE, LASH OUT, ENDLESS FIGHT rec's, Tony Erba (H-100's, ex-Face Value), CONVERGE/EARTHMAKER rec's, TIMESCAPE ZERO/FEAST OF HATE & FEAR, plus many, many pages of reviews & news. Still up-to-date, really useful, really cheap.
- 1 stamp USA/2 IRC's world (Wholesale: 24 copies for \$3.00 US/\$6.00 world)
- ISSUE 4:Comes with the NO EXIT compilation, featuring INTEGRITY, CATHARSIS, LINE DRIVE, EXCESSIVE FORCE, REFUGE, BLOODSHED, & POLYESTER COWBOYS. 'Zine includes write-ups on those bands, plus interviews with MAYDAY, RINGWORM, and RICOCHET, and many pages of news. \$3.00 USA/\$5.00 world (Wholesale: \$2.70 USA/\$4.00 world)
- ISSUES 1,2,3:Covers 1/94-6/94 in hardcore history. Lots of news and addresses, plus older interviews with EARTH CRISIS, SNAPCASE, INTEGRITY, VICTORY rec's, CHOKEHOLD, BLOODLET, CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL, POINT BLANK/BONESAW, SPLINTER, FOCUSED, SIX FEET DEEP, DEAD WAIT, EDGEWISE/HARVEST rec's, CONFRONT/MEANSTREAK, OTIS REEM, and DARE2DEFY/2DAMNHYPE rec's/ALLTHAT megazine, & more. \$1.00 USA/\$2.00 world (Wholesale not available)
- INSIDE FRONT SHIRTS: Featuring the designs from the cover of #5, these are X-large, black & blue on white, 2-sided, printed by DARK EMPIRE shirt company. They're a fundraiser so I can continue to do my projects for as cheap as I do, so if you like what I'm doing please try to support Inside Front and keep me from going bankrupt. Thanks.
- \$10 USA/\$13 world (Wholesale \$8 USA/\$11 world)
- ENDLESS FIGHT "Over the Edge part 2" CD comp:All the best new bands of 1995, on one cheap CD: CATHARSIS, LASH OUT, BACKLASH, CROSS SECTION, TIMESCAPE ZERO, TENSION, NEGLECT, DISMAY, ARISE, SLIP, DISSOLVE, HOLD STRONG, WITHDRAWN, STRENGTH 691, AGE OF REASON, JASTA 14, CULPRIT, DIVIDED WE FALL. Wow. \$8.00 USA/\$10 world (for wholesale, write Endless Fight records)
- CATHARSIS "Fall" demo:Unique, sincere, intelligent, intense, angry as fuck holy terror hardcore. Much acclaimed. Be warned, 2 of the 3 originals have been released on compilations...Lyrics available on request. \$3.00 USA/\$4.00 world (Wholesale \$2.00 USA/\$3.00 world)
- POLYESTER COWBOYS demo:Classic NC punk/hardcore crossover. Includes booklet. Costs only \$1.00 USA/\$2.00 world
- touching on women's issues? Powerful, frightening, talented for sure.

  2 stamps USA/4 IRC's world (Wholesale: 10 copies for \$2.00 USA/\$5.00 world)
- Make checks out to "Brian Dingledine." Anyone can distribute Inside Front, it's real cheap, and everything helps. Thanks.

## D E M O S

If you're in a band that is just starting out, and you are very serious about getting somewhere, there are some particular things you can do to increase your chances. First be sure every member of the band gives a fuck, because other--wise they'll fall through on you when you need it least. Have a set day or 2 every week for practise. At first you'll want to play every show you can, but after a few months of this when everyone knows your songs you'll want to cut your shows down to at most 1 per month per city, so people don't start taking you for granted. One great thing you can do is to start a project in addition to the band(booking shows, writing a 'zine, a label, etc.): this gives you lots more useful connections, makes people(especially the ones who run labels, etc.) know that you're serious and committed, and it gives you another forum to let people know about your band. Playing out of town is a great thing if you play the right shows, but a frustrating waste of time and money otherwise; make sure that it will be a well-attended show at which people will be paying attention to a new band of your style. Don't book a tour until you know every show will be like that. Finally, as for releasing demos, I've noticed a particular trend among bands that become successful, and this is how you can follow it: go ahead and record a demo when you feel ready, and sell it to kids who like you at shows, but don't spread it around too much. Chances are, the first time you go into the studio you have little knowledge of how to do what you want, so treat this first recording and first demo most of all as a learning experience. Then a while later when you've improved and you know better from earlier experience, go into the studio again (spare no expense, as people will judge your band by the quality of your demo & you usually get what you pay for... if you wanted money to go to the movies & shit, you shouldn't have got into hardcore anyway) and record another demo. It really helps to take in a member of a much more experienced band with you, to give advice on the spot. This second demo should be really good, so send it to all the labels you know with a letter describing your band and it's goals, and look for comp's to submit songs off the demo to. When you're doing this, make sure to get advice & support from all the connections you've made from your other projects. Spare no expense to get this demo to all labels, distributors, etc. you can. Good luck!

#### REVIEWS:

AFTERSHOCK: This band has the monotonous, slow & deep chunky sound with matching gruff vocals that are a little short on feeling & have a bit of that hip hop thing going on. Lyrics about having X's on your hand & in your heart. On the up-side their guitarist is very skilled & has a style I would recognize if I heard it again; because of him there Inside Out cover almost works(but it's hard to live up to all the feeling that were in Zack's vocals, & their singer sings by -the numbers anyway.) By the way you can also reach the 666 SXE shirt Co. at their address: they make shirts with wonderwoman wearing X's, & the like. Tobias, box 631, 2 college st., providence, ri 02903

BIOFEEDBACK "hard times": From the Phillipines, so they deserve respect for getting their demo out to the East Coast of the USA. The key word to this is eclectic: there's influence from metallic hardcore, punk, and oi. Mostly English lyrics, some socially conscious, some more personal. The recording quality could be better but I understand they have limited resources. Write them at the address of the Philippines' undergound magazine: ANTI-FANZINE, c/o Dondi

Tawatao, 88 Basa St., San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City, 1105 Phillipines. CORNERSTONE: This demo is a badly mixed epitome of that new genre of h/c that calls itself "oldschool," like Halfmast or any of the other bands who are trying, 8 years later, to sound like Chain of Strength did. Simple fast parts &

slower dance parts, positive stance lyrics. They have a 9-song CD coming out on Lost & Found records(IM Moore 8, 30167 Hanover, Germany)that should be much better, and a split 7" with extinct SXE band UNIT PRIDE on the same label in support of the upcoming U.P. discography. They seem to be committed & seriousabout what they're doing. *Toby, 211 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT 06801-2113, suite 153.* 

CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY: At their best, this band has a newer style sound with music you you could do those new 15-year old SXE kid hopping dances to. Their slightly self-righteous vegan lyrics may alienate you if you disagree, as may their "I'm so sad and weak" emo lyrics (by the way guys, it's a mistake to think people will be able to take your politics seriously if you present yourself from the outset as an insecure, fragile failure)...that whole thing is topped off by a motherfucking teddybear on the cover that says "hugs needed!" Listen, children, in this world you get what you earn, not what you "need." But if their music gets a little personality to distinguish it from other bands of their style they could do a great 7". I think I heard they've changed their name...? Paul Shapiro, 11001 Riverwood Dr., Potomac, MD 20854 301-983-5091 END IN SIGHT: Good sound for a demo. At its best moments it has that Swedish hardcore sound (like a younger Abhinanda) that carries a lot of stop&go energy. Their singer needs to learn a little better how to let loose, and they could make some of their songs better by tightening & shortening them. They have a 7" coming out, & if they do improve it will be powerful and moving. Lyrics: anti-greed & anti-system, SXE themes, personal suffering, being yourself. Not bad. Mikke Niskanen, Skiftesgatan 14, 332.35 gislaved, sweden.

ENRAGE cassette:Slick, New York metal about being ugly, depressed, and pathetic. KURBJAW: This is great. Older fashioned music that's catchy but hard, fast parts & mosh parts & self-improvement lyrics that continue in the direction of late 80's h/c with enough real feeling for it not to be a ripoff or second rate. No crying, the vocals are tough but not fake. The first two songs are on a comp by Step Forward records in Japan, the 3rd is on "The Point" comp on Reaction rec's (address in Inside Front#3), the 1st is on a Hearsay rec's comp described elsewhere in this issue, and the decent Minor Threat cover will be on a M.T. cover comp. 16 Clausen Rd., Edison, NJ 0881(that's all the zip I have) 908-583-7138. OPTION: This is pretty well done, coming from a band I've never heard from before. The lyrics are personal, the topics not completely original but they're very well-written so you can tell they're real rather than copied out of a book. Chunky, fairly fast, danceable music in a sort of Turmoil vein, only more metal squeals in the guitars and deeper, tougher vocals...OK I have to admit the word "Biohazard" came to mind once, but there's not enough to fuck it up. 918 Sanderson Ave, Apt. B Scranton, PA 18509 717-348-3054.

OUT OF SPITE: This definitely has more a NY/Biohazard sound than Option did. Fairly slow, hard, hip-hop rhythm music, and unbelievably deep vocals; corresponding lyrics about inner-city violence, building up aggression, and one about working hard to make something of yourself that I was glad to see. You

can tell it's a demo, and no new ground is broken, but then, it is a demo, right? 4100 S.W. 107 PL, Miami, 33165 305-223-6461

SWITCH STYLE: The first song is built like a song of the first SICKOFITALL LP: fast verse, slow anthemic chorus, and it works well. The second song is more technical, with hiphop influenced rhythm. The third and last songs are fast, with the sudden chunky parts like in "what will remain" by Strife. Throughout it they keep a sound of their own, and vocals are in great English, with some feeling. I hope they continue and are able to get somewhere despite living in Japan. Kenzo Nakase, 1591-218 Matsudo, Matsudo-shi Chiba 271 Japan V/A "Dark Empire Strikes Back" Video:The last two items in this section aren't

demos, but I'm putting them here so they'll be in good company since they don't fit anywhere else. This is more than an hour worth of Cleveland hardcore: that is, generally mean and hateful metallic music with a theme of people getting hurt. Good variety of bands, the filming ranges from good to poor; my advice is that if you like Cleveland music you should check this out, you'll know more about it and the scene afterwards. My favorite part is the video of Meanstreak playing "Final Word" at the Chicago show when Integrity went there to cause trouble to Tony of Victory records(before they kissed & made up)...Rob of End--Point (who is known for being an anti-violence pacifist) is in the front row & when they song starts he starts beating the shit out of everyone, including Dwid, who gets shoved on the floor and stomped on. I'm sure Rob doesn't want anyone to see this..! \$15 to Jeff Grey, 291 Butternut Lane, Berea, OH 44017. V/A "Tools, Radio, & Technology: This is a homemade comp by Steve Peffer (of Inside Front shirt distribution fame). On casstette. Live songs by Integrity, Strife, Snapcase, Earth Crisis, Fadeaway, Ringworm, and others that have that bad boot--leg quality that some of you weirdos seem to prefer. Also some studio songs by less known bands like Initiative, Grade, Envy, and Gasolene, that are generally a bit cleaerer. Steve has done other comps like this, and the good thing about them is that you get to find out about lots of different bands for not much money. \$5 to Steve Peffer, PO Box 770291, Lakewood, OH 44107

## RECORD AND CD REVIEWS

ABHINANDA "Senseless" CD: This was one of the best records of 1994. Fast, heart-felt, impassioned, screaming hardcore at it's finest, with chunky, metallic, and melodic parts in perfect cohesion to make it original and groundbreaking as well as intense. Every photo of them I've seen shows a wilder, more involved, more exciting show than I've seen in the US for a long time. The lyrics chronicle in moving words an individual's struggle to purify and perfect himself. This is what straightedge should be. A few of my friends joke that this is a little on the emotional side for my tastes, but there's no emo here, just real feeling. I'm going to take a risk & say this CD does what the Strife Lp aims to do, only better. I'm not easily impressed at all, so you should see what all the fuss is about. Desperate Fight Rec's, Kemig 16, 90731 Umea, Sweden ANGUISH 7": You can expect quality from DarkEmpire, and even though this band got on Dwid's label by accident(long story) they do live up to it. Cleveland sound(deep, shrieking, evil metal, abstract bloody lyrics, sample from "Edward Scissorhands"...hold on, something's wrong here...)--besides the sample, the other downsides are that their music is a little uniform(needs a little developing) in sound, and I can't tell if their lyrics mean anything. But, good. Good layout, 2.

Dark Empire, the ultimate evil: box 770213, Lakewood, OH 44107 216-651-7444. ATLAS SHRUGGED "The Last Season" 12": The musicians of this band are very talented: they play tight, tribal-sounding, grooving metallically melodic(sometimes the other way around music) that is complex and impressive, often moving. Their singer however has a voice that, while it occasionally reaches a good scream, generally has an annoying squeeky sound. The lyrics and layout(which is nice as hell, for a self-released project) show that they are intelligent & educated, which is a rare and wonderful thing. They have a split 7" coming up with Lash Out on MooCow rec's. Trip Machine, PO Box 36, New City, NY 10956 AVAIL lp:A friend played this for me. It's happy in a giddy, childlike, silly way like a cartoon. If you are too you'll love it I'm sure. (It makes me sick.) BACKLASH "The Lost New Start" 7", "...Once Ago" 7", "Inside" 12":I've listed these in chronological order, and each one is very much an improvement on it's predecessor. The first one was rough, yelled, simplistic h/c that didn't really build to much. The second was similar only tighter & more polished. With the new Lp, Backlash finally crosses the line to become a good band. They have a sound built on the old fashioned style, without staying in the past; their singer yells and his voice builds to real screaming intensity in some songs. Positive, proud lyrics, and energetic music. They may be recording a new CD for a label Chris Logan of Chokehold is doing. These releases are from all different labels so just contact the band: Jon Backlash, 16 Simpson Ct. Bergenfield, NJ 07621 BOUCING SOULS "Neurotic" 7":If you haven't seen this band you'll probably just think this is silly happy punk music. But if you've seen them you'll enjoy it for its tongue in cheek humor.

DOUGHNUTS "Equalize Nature" CDep: This band is now on Victory rec's, so you can imagine this wasn't a bad release. It has the Swedish h/c sound like Abhinanda, only a little slower, rougher, looser. The vocals aren't quite as screaming as I'd like to hear from this girl (given the glimpses of her voice I get when she does scream), rather she sort of sings and shouts in a very original style that's by no means anything less than hard. Ecologically and socially conscious lyrics. Desperate Fight records, see above for address DOWNER CDep: This is low, grooving music with deep, sung vocals (ever heard Soundgarden?), rock & roll. Ex-members of Headfirst and Mission Impossible. Clear, well-done music that I can imagine hearing at a college party(not that you'll ever fucking catch me at one.) But it does have a little power to it, and it's on a cool label. CDLp out soon, I guess on the same label? Ammunition Rec's. PO Box 461, Bellflower, CA 90707

EVERLAST "Drown the Self" 7":Very metallic, EarthCrisis-style chunky guitar, sometimes fast & energetic. The lyrics are a sort of high screaming that is too incomprehensible to express any emotion, in the long run. The band apparently was too lazy to make their insert in time for the release of the record, which is just plain pathetic. I wouldn't say this is exactly generic in any way, though, & that's a plus for sure. Chapter Rec's, PO Box 40901, San Francisco, CA 94140 H-100'S 7":You know punk rock? Fast, ugly, screaming, loose, messy, rebellious, obnoxious, thrift shop, obscene-gesturing, no future, I-don't-care-fuck-you, violent, shocking, repugnant, old-fashioned punk rock? Well, this sure is it. Ex-member Tony Erba of Face Value on bass. PO Box 561, Brunswick, OH 44212 HELLBENDER CD:This is more modern, rocknroll post-punk: melodic, noisy & loose, twentysomething stuff that's sort of harmless. The lyrics are really well

done & sort of speak to me as a guy also out of his teens but still trying to do his own thing--despite the fact that I feel I don't have too much in common with these guys. Write the band at 307 Blueridge Rd. Carrboro, NC 27510 MADBALL "Set It Off" CD:2 friends of mine whose taste I really respect say this is the best record of 1994. I can't agree, but it is good. I thought their 7" on WreckAge was better, because this is sort of overproduced and too clean for the style of music. It has a style like Biohazard meets Agnostic Front(most of the band is members or relatives of the latter), and what they do like A.F. is perfect: Agnostic Front was, in my eyes, the ultimate h/c band, and Madball does sound legitimate and real. Plus it's great to hear something that's still hard as fuck without being fake. The major label overproduction is the only downside. MEAN SEASON "Grace" Lp: Different from their 7". Complex, metallic music that is sometimes fairly intense, but the vocals throw it all off. They're weird, like nothing else I've heard: not hard at all, not exactly emo, not quite sung, but certainly annoying. New Age rec's, PO Box 5213, Huntington Beach, CA 92615 RAID "Above the Law" CD: This is the discography that may be rereleased on Victory. The music is fucking brutal as hell in that scary screaming threatoning style that RAID carried to new levels of intensity. It's undeniable that this band was one of the best at what they did. Of course, their fascist, untenable ecoterrorist politics are a joke, as the fact that they and their record label only lasted a couple years proves. If anyone disagrees with me about the foolishness of hardline, I can prove it on a million fronts, so try me. It would've been funny if bands like Earth Crirsis hadn't failed to get the joke... REMAIN "Die Alone": This music is very much like Encounter: melodic, emoinfluenced, but still fairly hard, and building to occasional moments of real power. The mix is pretty bad though. The singer has barely enough convincing energy in his voice for his high sung/screamed words to not be annoying. The lyrics are intelligently written, socially/politically conscious, concerning poverty, apathy, environmental damage, suffering of the American Indians. If this had been a demo, I would have expected good things of this band; but, it's a CD, & they're broken up now. Oh well. Ammunition Rec's, see above SICK OF IT ALL "Scratch the Surface" CD: Well, they're experimenting a bit with their sound, I don't know if that's because of the major label subsidiary they're on or not. This band used to be the perfect example of basic hardcore: powerful rhythm, lots of energy & plain sincerity...they still have most of that & their shows are still great, but the straight h/c songs on here aren't quite as perfectly crafted and moving as on their last album and some songs flirt with new sounds that I would advise against for this band: distorted vocals, major key tunes, etc.

SOULSTICE 7":I only got to hear this once, but it was far better than their earlier stuff I'd heard. The singer no longer sounds as bored as he did on their track on the "In Our Blood" comp, and the music is good straightforward h/c with a recognizable influence from other upstate NY bands (you know, Snapcase, Earth Crisis, etc.) that isn't overkill at all. I liked the old-fashioned raw mix. STARKWEATHER "Divine Art" 7":At it's heavy moments, this is heavier & more metallic(metal like Metallica rather than Earth Crisis) than their CD: doublebase drumming, stomachtwisting guitar, deep possessed strangled vocals that seem to come from a reservoir of pain...then it turns to haunting acoustics and singing, which in this case makes Starkweather a very original and groundbreaking band,

it doesn't fuck it up at all. No address, so order it from Very distribution. STRIFE "One Truth": If you remember the Judge Lp "Bringing It Down," I think this is very much the successor to that album, stylistically and in historical context too. Complex music that bridges the gap perfectly between older-style h/c and today's metallic bands. Strife is a SXE band that represents many of the good (positive attitude, real subjects and approaches, sincerity) and refreshingly few of the bad things in the scene today, and it's paid off for them. The music is almost constantly intense, certainly emotional and fast enough to have lots of energy. Sometimes the gruff backing vocals don't work, & I don't see these songs becoming classic the way the ones on the Judge album did, on the downside. Individually they're just not quite memorable enough. Some kids whine about the ballad at the end--those kids are just closed-minded and superficial. Victory Records, PO Box 146546, Chicago, IL 60614, 312-549-4478. THINK TWICE "Unrealized" Lp:I believe this is fairly typical of Crucial Response releases is that the music is fairly old-fashioned hardcore, which sometimes throws in enough complexity and originality to be really moving(but other times seems to be fairly by-the-numbers) and the vocals are not extremely powerful, sort of shouting in a voice that isn't very deep. Also, the German accent on the English lyrics(about not giving up, being united, money being bad, and being "lost in the darkness") makes me wish he'd stuck to his native tongue. Crucial Response, Peter Hoeren, Kaisersfeld 98, 4200 Oberhausen 1, Germany SHATTER/FOREGROUND split 7":Shatter sound very original in a noisy, distorted screaming way; lyrics about being dragged down by mainstream apathy, etc. Foreground is harder here than usual, but they still have weak, high-pitched singing vocals, fast music that doesn't pack too much punch, and emo lyrics. MooCow rec's, 38 Larch Circle, Belmont, MA 02178 VISION OF DISORDER/LOYAL TO NONE split 7': VOD is very powerful, angry and aggressive, for sure. They play NY-style h/c influenced by metal and hip hop, but fortunately not ruined by them. The singer lets loose so much when he screams it's scary. LTN is more simplistic NY h/c, less complex and not quite as intense, but still solid and good with original touches. A good record. Hearsay Rec's, PO Box 382288, Cambridge, MA 02238 "Boston is Burning" 7" comp:Converge(pretty, extremely original, melodic, sung/ /screamed abstract/personal lyrics: impressive) Dive(intense, screaming angry hardcore that has all the feeling of the best punk/hardcore bands from the old

"Boston is Burning" 7" comp:Converge(pretty, extremely original, melodic, sung//screamed abstract/personal lyrics: impressive) Dive(intense, screaming angry hardcore that has all the feeling of the best punk/hardcore bands from the old days without sounding like anyone else, this is what I think of when I think of hardcore) Daltonic(simplistic, typical basic East Coast h/c with generic song structure and bad lyrics) and Opposition(badly mixed, basic hardcore that's not too special and has some awful meta 1 parts). A mixed 7", worth it, though. Hearsay records

"Boston Hardcore" 7" comp:Intent to Injure(Brutal, aggressive hardcore, well-done very fast parts contrasted with more grooving slow parts...the vocals match, but the lyrics are the one confusing element: they mix that questionable hiphop lingo some h/c bands regretably use with mystical, abstract lyrics that even include a reference to an ancient Greek myth..?) Dive(not as good here, an instrumental part that lasts for ever and lyrics that seemingly mean nothing, I don't know how he can scream them with such conviction) and Chilmark(imagine h/c meets gothic/atmospheric music, at first it seems like a good original idea, but after it's gone on for about 5 minutes the same way it's pretty dull).

Moo Cow Records

"North by Northeast" 7" comp:Kurbjaw(I reviewed this song in my review of their demo, it's the best song on here) Halfmast(definitely the leaders in the "imitate the old-school" movement today, if you miss Wide Awake and the old shouting, simple h/c this may be your thing...or it may strike you as not living up to the old days. They do have a really intelligent essay against the hardline "conversion by force" doctrine in their insert. Good for them) Cornerstone(sorry to say this is Halfmast, only half as good) and Emission(now broken up, I believe, they're not too different from these other bands, and not extremely memorable). Look in my "news" section about this label before you buy this... Hearsay Records

"Soundtrack to the Revolution" 7":Chokehold(you probably know this band: low, chunky guitars, choked vocals with feeling, not extremely tight or anything but I guess lots of people like them because they seem real) Converge(I would say the same thing about this song that I said about their song on the "Boston is Burning" comp, it's not hardcore but it's good original, noisy music) Bound (distorted as hell, shreiking noise, short & intense, vocals are very distorted too, good but it seems like they almost did it for a joke) and Bound(starts with a really good acoustic part that is too good to be generic, basic h/c music against addiction, a nice typical song.) Good collection of songs.

#### 'ZINE REVIEWS

ACCELERATOR #1: Definitely a good effort. Newsprint, incredible layout, very

well done. Thoughts and writings in an emo vein, and the longest interview I've ever read in my life with the band Samuel. Earned my respect. 519 N. 4th St. Apt. A, Lewis burg, PA 17837-1107--50 cents & 1 stamp ALLTHAT megazine #4?:This very slick, professional glossy magazine concentrates on metal, the more commercial/successful side of hardcore, rap, and all the hybrids in between. Thick with band profiles, interviews, reviews, soundbites. 606 Willow Ave, Ste. #3, Hoboken, NJ 07030--\$1.95 BREAK FREE #3: Full size, not extremely thick, clean layout, SXE fanzine in the spirit of that genre. A couple articles, some funny art about OJ Simpson, interviews with Chrous of D., Inside Front, etc....I found the latter very interesting & informative. Not the very best of its kind but well-done...by a good guy, too. PO Box 121, Lehman, PA 18627-0121 (717-675-3766) \$1.50 CLEARWATER #1:Hardcore 'zine, some photos, mostly personal thoughts and discussions with a strong feminist slant. Pretty intelligent, mature, thick. Catherine Vodola, 25 Mt. Hood Rd #2, Brighton, MA 02135 \$1 DIFFERENT LIFE: Czech republic magazine, in Czech language. Deals mostly with political issues, anti-smoking & drugs, etc. If you're in that area, check it out. Roman Soumar, Topolcianska 419/10, 41201 Litomerice, Czech Republic Eightfold Path #1 & 2:A good mix of articles(original & reprinted) on everything from animal rights to sexism to book reviews to hilarious trivia, with personal stories that (unlike personal writing in EVERY other fucking 'zine) are truly interesting and moving and are thus the highlight of the 'zine and make it a standout. Has a homemade feel without being unreadable, and a lot of heart. Laura Vocat, #1-2617 7th St. East, Saskatoon, Sk. Canada s7h1a6 \$2 ENGINE #2:I think this is pretty old, but whatever. This guy also does a large scale, serious 'zine distribution under the same name, with a variety of journals.

This 'zine fits a lot of good stuf into a small size: interviews with Dan O'Mahony and IT'S ALIVE 'zine, interesting Hawaiian stories by Lance Hahn, an intelligent discussion of(against) anarchy, a great article by an incarcerated man. PO Box 640928, San Francisco, CA 94164-0928 (415-641-5098) free! FLUSH #8,9,10:Messy, random stuff: a few photos, lots of the usual personal thoughts, much of them in xeroxed handwriting. Random, messy stuff. Emo? #37536-1520 Lonsdale Ave., North Vancouver, BC, Canada v7m 317 HEARTATTACK #4:It's improving. Lots and lots of reviews of records & zines, from an Ebullition/emo/punk viewpoint. Columns that are a ripoff of the Max. Rock&Roll columns, & aren't as interesting. Good interviews with bands like Avail. Too much space wasted on pointless letters. But definitely cheap & useful Ebullition, PO Box 680, Goleta, CA 93116 805-964-6111 \$1 in the mail HELLBENDER #666, whatever: Sorry but I think this represents everything that is wrong with kids doing 'zines. Fucking interviews that are LITERALLY nothing more than the editor asking the band if they like Slayer and the Beatles, then walking away. Random collages and opinions on a low level. OK reviews. If you're gonna do something, do something worthwhile and mature, maybe. Jason Horton, PO Box 547, Vails Gate, NY 12584 INVERTED IMAGE #1:This is certainly the epitome of the SXE 'zine genre: photo: short question & answer interviews with Mouthpiece and others, copied ads, brief reviews of mostly SXE hardcore, etc. Good if this is your taste. He's also putting out the Moment of Truth(metallic h/c) CD on his label, same address: Image Rec's, 81 Bradwood Rd., Buffalo, NY 14224 NATRRAIN #1,2:Well, you wouldn't expect to see this here. Abstract, comicstyle art 'zine, with a focus on things that would bother most of you kids(the Marquis De Sade & other erotic/sadistic stuff, ironic humor, more sadism, and short articles on such things as existentialism.) Unlike any other 'zine... 505 Springlake Crescent, Unit #201, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 \$1 OPEN SEASON: Damn this is a breath of fresh air. Older fashioned hardcore 'zine, one of the few left(including Dwid's Bloodbook)...that means it has a great layout in-depth reviews, interviews with bands like Warzone, Toetag, and 25 Ta Life (in which he asks questions like "About 5 years ago me and some friends beat down the singer for Raze at a show in Buffalo. Was he a friend of yours?" and "Where's a good place in your neighborhood to get, say, seafood?") Instead of a

top 10 records list, he lists his favorite music to lift weights to. Instead of generic "abortion is bad" articles from a 15-year-old's point of immature view, he discusses real shit like how employment agencies don't provide health insurance. Instead of cheap copied ads for little kids' labels that rip you off anyway he includes historic DarkEmpire and Confront ads & photos. Mature and cool. PO Box 10282, Rochester, NY 14609 \$1?

OUTCAST #2: The guy from the band Crime Against Humanity (se demo reviews) is involved in this. Interviews with Earth Crisis & some smaller similar bands, writings: pro-Vegan, anti-American, anti-racist, about what it means to be SXE, a couple photos. You've seen it before, but maybe that wasn't enough. OK. 7807 Hamilton Spring Rd., Bethesda, MD 20817

PERAKLISMEGENIS: Lithuanian hardcore 'zine, in Lithuanian. Mostly comics with a political slant. If you're in the area contact them.

Mic, Taikos, 95-13, 2017 Vilnius, Lithuania.

PLAIN JANE: Xeroxed handwriting & reprinted articles about feminist concerns.

She does some good shit like reprint useful local phone #'s(rape crisis, etc.) PO Box 10425 Wilmington, NC 28405

SACRED CHOW #4:Well, this is Steve Peffer indulging himself in some infantile humor. Interviews with Apartment 213, me, and a bunch of others who all come off as idiots on purpose. Maybe that's your thing. On the upside, it comes with one of Steve's really cheap, cool tape compilations with everyone from Apt.213 to Halfmast to the Inmates to Initiative to the Mormons.

PO Box 770291, Lakewood, OH 44107 \$2

SALACIOUS CRUMB #4:2 parts skating(even an interview with Soylent Green skateboards) and 1 part pop-punk/hardcore 'zine. Brief, & unbeautiful layout. If you live in England, this could be a useful contact for you.

31 Quakers Raod, Downend, Bristol, BS16 6JE

SCREAMS FROM INSIDE #4:Emotional hardcore/punk 'zine on newsprint. Lots of Carissa's thoughts and feelings written up for us, letters to her, mostly conversational interviews with Threadbare, Universal Order of Armageddon, brief record reviews. Emotional is the word. Two things that threw me for a loop: in her Strife review she says "if you're SXE you've got to buy this." What does being SXE have to do with it? Can't you be SXE and love the Subhumans(& hate modern h/c), or like Strife even if you're not straight? Suggesting that SXE kids "have to buy" a certain record just might contribute to the consumerist mentality that she & I both hate, and it also suggests that SXE is a culture rather than a philosophy—which may be true, but that's the worst thing that ever happened to SXE(for it to become a trend rather than an ideal) and I'm fighting it with all my strength. Second of all she described Inside Front as being about "...scene happenings in New Jersey." What the fuck?? What the fuck?? What the fuck?? PO Box 13044, Minneapolis, MN 55414

SOCIETAL LETDOWN #2:Short, highschool SXE 'zine. A couple photos, some pointless line drawings, some reviews that are actually good but give the wrong addresses for the labels, a brief q & a interview, thoughts you won't be able to relate to if you're over 17(or even under 17 but have a job!), decent format. PO Box 1585, Wilmington, NC 28402...if he got this address right!

STUDIES FOR A CRUCIFIXION #1:This is unlike any of the other 'zines in these reviews: it consists of two long stories, which are really gripping and stomachturning in their intensity. Some parts are really hallucinatory, while still retaining enough humanity in the protagonist to move me, while other parts seem more autobiographic & are thereby even more powerful. You can tell the author was a writer first & a 'zine editor second, thank God. Broaden your horizons, try it. I think the second issue will be out soon, longer, which will be good. I distribute this from the Inland Empire address for 2 stamps.

SURPRISE ATTACK #2:This is the ultimate SXE kid 'zine, & for once I don't mean that in a bad way because this is quality work. Imagaine taking about 9 little useless SXE kid 'zines & adding them together, completely upgrading all the layout, spelling, & grammar, & removing all the useless garbage and immature shit. Almost I centimeter thick with all the interviews, reviews, ads, photos, essays, arguments, columns, and everything else that fits, all well formatted. Of course since he's fairly young you may have to disagree with or scoff at some of the things he says, but this is a great effort, for sure. He also does other projects, like the short & autobiographical "King's Journal."

TENSION BUILDING #1:Another SXE kid 'zine, good as they go but Surprise Attack is a tough act to follow in this field. Basic q&a interviews with Ashes, Framework, Starkweather(the latter seems a bit out of place), lots of badly arranged photos and ranting about militant veganism. Typical reviews, SXE kid opinions, a few "personal thoughts" in xeroxed handwriting. Fairly thick. There's some Hardline stuff in here...remember, kids, a system of morality exists to achieve certain desired ends. For you to say that your system is for everyone else in the world is to say that everyone else does—or SHOULD—have the same desires as you. That's narrow minded fascism that would make our world a much more boring place & I will fight the hardline movement like I would fight nazism 429 Osborne Ave, Morrisville, PA 19067

THIRD PARTY newsletters #3,4,5:This is a very respectable venture on the part of this guy, to make free newsletters on the h/c scene & mail them out free. He should be commended. Brief but very to the point scene reports and information.

This shit keeps hardcore alive, so write him & ask to distribute some.

21 Nancy Lane, Amherst, NY 14228 send a stamp or two

Rob Tengowski, 3 Ditton Lane, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734

VIGILANCE/MOO COW Split Newspaper #4/14:This is another great free news letter like the third party one, only on newsprint and 3 times as long. Reviews, a couple ads, and lots of those "personal thoughts and feelings" that you know I think are pointless(although these are certainly more mature than the usual shit.) I think they're going to continue expanding & adding other features. Cool. Vigilance Rec's, PO Box 4021, Attleboro, MA 02703 \$5 for 50 copies.

2 stamps for 1 copy, \$3 for a 10 issue subscription.

WORDS OF HONOR #1:Fairly thick, not to well formatted SXE kid 'zine, with photos, handwriting & line-drawings, interviews with Avail, Bouncing Souls, & Shift(that should give you an idea of the musical content: happier, softer h/c) short reviews, xeroxed ads, brief thoughts, and a decent travel story.

ZIPS & CHAINS: This is great, a sort of European MRR(without pissing me off as much as MRR can)—that means it's really thick with all kinds of articles, interviews, reviews, and other shit on the European punk/hardcore scene, all very well done, mature, and professional, with a lot of integrity. Politically concerned, in a realistic way. In English. This is really cool. I'd love to go into detail, but my friend Christian Oglivy(anarcho-communist extraordinaire, of the legendary band Polyestor Cowboys) stole my copy. Suffice to say bands from Yuppicide to Fugazi to Growing Concern are interviewed, articles on punk independant radio, letters, much more. I think it comes with a free patch, too? Dario Adamic, C.P. 15319, 00142, Roma, Italy \$3 USA, \$2 Europe

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## UNBROKEN

Interview

A few years back, in San Diego's hippy commune/hardcore show place the Che Cafe(I think it was the night Leave It To Clevo, a band actually formed to mock Brian, the first singer of Unbroken, opened for Born Against), I ran into one of the guitarists of the then-unknown band Unbroken. I tried to make conversation, but apparently my flight jacket and steel-toes made him uncomfortable, and he acted like he was late to be somewhere. I asked him how his band was doing, what their new stuff sounded like; he said "Oh, we're a metal band now." I said "You mean like Agnostic Front crossover stuff?" He said "no, just metal." Considering that, it's curious that when I interviewed bassist Rob he wanted me to make the headline for this interview "UNBROKEN IS NOT A METAL BAND, NEVER HAS BEEN, AND NEVER WILL BE." He said that contrary to widespread popular belief, they're "not influenced by deathmetal bands at all"--Rob is the only one who listens to that kind of music, and he doesn't write any of their music...and even he doesn't like Slayer, despite everyone from John of Very distribution to Nick of Third Party distribution calling them "Slay...oops, Unbroken." Rob explained that(regarding their newest, most metallic album Life, Love, Regret) they "just wanted to make a really heavy, depressing, angry album" and "it just came out sounding like that." He said that they definitely consider themselves a hardcore band, not a crossover band or anything else.

Unbroken's first release was a demo with the first singer Brian in October of 1991...then they recorded the song "Unheard Cries" for the now out-of-press compilation "It's For Life" with Strife & other bands(that song also ended up on their first Lp, "Ritual"), and a week later did a 7" "You won't be back" for New Age rec's(PO Box 5213, Huntington Beach, CA 92615). After that came the "Ritual" Lp on that label, followed by a split 7" with Groundwork on Bloodlink rec's(PO Box 252, New Gretna, NJ 08224) and a song on the "Lacking Mindset" compilation with Groundwork, Honeywell, & fellow San Diego band Struggle, and then their newest New Age Lp "Life, Love, Regret." They have a new 7" out on their friend (of Swing Kids, previously of Struggle) Justin's label, 31G rec's (PO Box 17826, San Diego, CA 92177-8262) -- those songs ("And", "Fall On Proverb") also appear on a Lost & Found rec's CD which Rob describes as "a mistake"...he says it wasn't supposed to come out in the USA as competition with Justin's record, which is only \$2.50(\$4.00 world) anyway, so buy Justin's 7", not the CD. Coming soon they have a song on an Indecision rec's double Lp compilation (write New Age for information) with Snapcase, Chokehold, Strife, Farside, Blackout, etc., about 15 bands total, and they also have a song(a cover of Joy Division's "Love Will Tear Us Apart") coming out on the Chapter records CD compilation. They won't have a song on Igby's Ammunition records compilation after all, Rob said, because of some complicated accidents. After all that they'll do a 2-song 7" on New Age. Rob described their new music as having much more solid song-structures than the Life/Love/Regret Lp songs did, and having a "more rockish" feel to it, like a "really heavy Quicksand." He says they're out of the depression they were in when they wrote their last LP, and they want to start writing songs that also deal with "love and happiness." There's also a chance the band may break up, as singer Dave lives in the Midwest part of the time and the rest of them are now involved in other projects: Steve and Rob are in a band called "Holiday" with Berry, the of Amenity, and Oscar from Impel on guitar(Rob says Holiday sounds like "Stone Roses meets Janes Addiction"), and Eric and Todd are in a band that sounds like "Catherine Wheel-style college rock."

Rob said that when New Age showed interest in the band, they "had only been around for a month," and were "just excited to put out a record," so in retrospect he wasn't too pleased with the 7"; he described the Lp as showing a little improvement, but New Age delayed re-

leasing it for so long that by the time it came out it didn't represent the band at all & gave people the wrong impression about them. He said that "noone started taking notice nationally until summer of 1994" when the new Lp came out. It was a really bad year when they wrote that album, in terms of money, families, living conditions, jobs, and everything else: Eric's grandfather died and his girlfriend left him, Rob & Steve lost their jobs and girlfriends(though

Rob eventually got back together with his), etc., and on top of that everyone was giving Unbroken trouble about not fitting the HC/SXE mold. So they did the Lp as a release of all their frustration, both musically and lyrically they also each did their own insert for the Lp, as individual statements)...and afterwards everything got better. Rob said the album was "for ourselves only, we didn't care what anyone said, all we wanted was to make ourselves happy-and we did" -- so they've been happy to see that so many people liked it, but that's not the important thing to them. One of the band members' inserts mentioned how they didn't care what was written about the album in 'zines...Rob said that wasn't referring to any specific 'zine, just identifying the record as their own and announcing that they weren't concerned with others' criticism. We discussed some of the lyrics: Rob said that singer Dave "motorcycle boy" Claiborn is sort of " a mouthpiece for the band," in that he only writes a few lyrics. Rob and other members write most of the other words; Dave wrote "D4" & "Fall On Proverb." About the song "Razor," in which Dave sings "before I consume your product...give me a razor," Rob said "that song is about how we feel that the only escape from government influence, taxes, polution," etc. "is death. No matter how hard you protest, death" or living out in the desert as a hermit "Is the only escape." Considering this, Rob thinks we should "live life to the fullest and take (that is, steal) as much free stuff as we can" before the end. About the song "Blanket," which says "look to yourself before you look to another being," Rob said "religion is good and bad: it can give you more strength and happiness, but it can also steal you from yourself." The band ranges from atheist to agnostic, except for Rob, who is interested in the modern paganism and witchcraft of Wicca which he describes as the pursuit of the higher self and of higher consciousness of this self. He says "Paganism is not prejudiced, it's really into equality ...according to it everyone has their own path, and no religion is better than any other." He says the rituals and meditation involved in Wicca "put him on another plane" and help him to have a positive outlook and more self-confidence. Rob mentioned that the southern California scene includes lots of people who are interested in Paganism, for example, the old bassist of Mean Season. As for religion in hardcore, Rob said "it's stupid how people segregate themselves" into religious sects because "there's already too much segregation in hardcore." He's pleased to announce that Unbroken draws all different kinds of people to their shows, mostly because they "leave the preaching to bands like Youth of Today" and don't strive to convey a certain view. Unbroken were frustrated that the phrase "Veganism is Good" was somehow printed on their split 7" with Groundwork, because not even all of Groundwork was vegan, and none of Unbroken is(Steve was for two years)...Rob says that veganism is great "if it's important to you"...animal rights issues were once really important in his life and he was involved in Project Wildlife in San Diego, but that has sort of drifted out of his life. He does "think it's wrong to kill an animal for food." etc., "but if you're willing to take that upon yourself" then it's your business.

I confronted Rob about Unbroken's often negative and self-pitying lyrics; he said that they believe that "hardcore has no boundries," and so just as he doesn't feel that music that is too metallic or melodic should be excluded he believes that "there is room for self-pity in hardcore" and that that was the way they felt at the time, so they certainly didn't want to just write "songs for people to sing along to," which would be compromising themselves. Rob said that "hardcore has been a way of life for me since 7th grade," and the band has always liked different kinds of music and expanding the horizons of music; he thinks "hardcore, too, should expand

everywhere." Rob says he "likes self-pity lyrics" like those of Morissey, who has long been a favorite musician of everyone in Unbroken. He said that because Morissey is "very passionate and intense, he could fit into what hardcore should be," If it were to be truly without boundries. Regarding their notorious fashion style, Rob said that over the years of listening to Morissey everyone in the band eventually started to dress like him; people used to mock them for it, but now it's the "cool" thing to do. In addition to Morissey, Steve from Unbroken likes Johnny Mar (the guitarist from the Smiths) and Rob likes Front 242, Skinny Puppy, Dead Can Dance, Youth of Today, Unity, Elvis, Benny Goodman, negative Approach, as well as appreciating the writing of Edgar Allen Poe. Rob also cites his girlfriend and his other close friends, who he says are great people, as being important influences in his life.

When Unbroken formed, SXE was dead in their region(it had died with Judge, No For An ANswer, etc.) and the whole Ebullition thing was in vogue, so they chose that name to announce that they were still part of the SXE phenomenon, that "we didn't fall"; in retrospect Rob describes their attitude at the time as "cheesy." Since then, he says, the band has "grown up," and now "Unbroken" is "just their name," and has no deep meaning. As for their choice of cover art, the 7" cover(a photo of a burning hazard-test dummy) was taken from National Geographic... to them(in their "cheesy" period) it represented "mankind on fire." The first few pressings of that record had perfect, clear, readable inserts, but for some reason after that they came out completely black and fucked up, unreadable. The cover for the "Ritual" Lp is a photo of a monk from a far-away Christian sect; to get into the priesthood they must completley bury themselves for 72 hours, with their hands up praying. The photos on the cover of the most recent Lp were taken from the movie Swing Kids, which Rob says is a sort of San Diego hardcore cult classic. Rob says he's very happy in San Diego; he likes how the scene there is self-sufficient, healthy, and insular, while at the same time closely connected to what goes on in the rest of southern California. He and the rest of Unbroken are very happy with their label, New Age, which is located there, and they're close friends with Mike Hartsfield, who runs it...Rob says that while he was lazy about filling mailorders, etc. in the past, that he now has a "second wind" and will be more organized and dependable. Coming up on that label are a Mean Season 12" Ep and a Mouthpiece 7". As far as San Diego 'zines, Rob recommended his brother's 'zine, Breaking Free, which is available from his address...#4 will be out soon for \$3, the 3rd issue was 89 pages and had interviews with Dayspring, 2 Line Filler, 4 Walls Falling, etc.... Swing Kids is the new San Diego band formed from the ashes of screaming political band Struggle(it includes Str. bassist Justin on vocals, drummer Jose, and Eric on guitar, who also plays in Unbroken). Rob describes them as "incredible, undescribable jazz that breaks into fast, pissed-off punk, like Man is the Bastard meets John Coltraine...unlike any other band." They have a 7" available from a label in New York, but you can order it from the 31G rec's address. Impel is another San Diego band, they sound like Quicksand, says Rob, and will be releasing an Lp on Overkill rec's. San Diego scenester Mike Cheese's band Gehenna, which has a split 7"(probably with Cleveland grindcore liars Apartment 213) due on Area 51 rec's, may have broken up now. Other bands Rob wanted to mention as being worth attention are I Wish I("Fugazi-style catchy rock"), who have a 7" due on (ex-Chain of Strength) Ryan Hoffman's new label, Smooth Man Gun("Swizstyle") who also have a 7" due on that unknown label, Wallflower(from southern California... Rob claims they're "undescribale but incredible"), who have a demo which will be released as a 7" on Comida rec's, and Channel, from Virginia.

Write to Rob and Unbroken at 274 Montclair Street, Chula Vista, CA 91911.



## SOCIAL DARWINISM: ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE by Christian Oglivy

The following article is in regards to Adel 156's article "SOCIAL DARWINISM" at the end of this issue of Inside Front. Christian, one of my close friends, wanted to reply to some of the ideas in that article, so I thought I'd fit both articles(this one at the last minute) into the same issue and give both sides of the story. Keep in mind that I don't really agree with either of these viewpoints, I'm just trying to encourage my readers to think about things.

—Brian, editor

I see Social Darwinism as an outdated and flatly wrong analysis of the development of life under nature. I say Social Darwinism is wrong because, more often than not, it presents a one-sided view of "nature" by placing undue emphasis on those extreme forces life must struggle against. The most basic principle of Social Darwinism is the constant war of each against all in the race to gain a stake in the necessities of survival: food, territory, and life itself. For a good illustration of this line of thinking let's look at what T.H. Huxley, a leading proponent of Social Darwinism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, had to say...

"The weakest and stupidest went to the wall, while the toughest and shrewdest, those who were best fitted to cope with their circumstances, but not the best in another way, survuved. Life was a continuous free fight, and beyond the limited and temporary relations of the family, the Hobbesian war of each against all was the normal state of existence."

This simply is not true, at least in that the "normal state of existence" was not typified by all out war. Darwin did not even consider this a leading factor in evolution. Darwin did consider nature to be a realm of struggle and conflict at times, but he also saw how a great many animals used cooperation and mutual ald in the fight for existence. By combining together those animals, that if left solitary would fall to each other, could sustain themselves far better. He made this fact known in his work The Descent of Man by writing, "Those communities which include the greatest number of the most sympathetic members would flourish best, and raise the greatest number of offspring." So, both Individual and collective struggle play an important role in progress under nature.

But even with this said, the main problem is that Social Darwinism is rooted in the emphasis on constant struggle between all, and thus leads to the conclusion that you will have a victim and a conquered. And for the last century Social Darwinism has been used as a "scientific" rational and justification for oppression. Equality is nothing, control of the means of survival is everything. And when it comes to deciding who should share in the monopoly of power, and who should get eliminated, well, who decides? Those who hold power and the ownership of the means of survival? This would be the logical answer if we follow the theory of Social Darwinism. And the scary thing is that we live in a world in which those who are in control use ideas like Social Darwinism to build their power structures up...but here in the "Western Democracies," instead of being killed off we just work until we drop dead or can afford to retire. So, who should be killed off? Those people who are not only "unproductively lazy, but greedy to live off a system in which they are subsidized by our tax dollars," like welfare mothers who would make less working than if they recieved A.C.D.F.? Or how about those inner city poor people who hang around on the street corners instead of going out to find jobs at those factories that have either moved to 3rd world nations or shut down because they became too expensive to operate(like in Detroit, L.A., or a hundred other industrial cities across this nation.) And what constitutes productive, meaningful work? Everybody has their own idea. I myself would rather stay home and read, write, listen to music, sleep, and fuck than spend my time working a dead-end job for someone else. A good many people are apathetic, pathetic, and "weak" not because they are inherently so, but because we live in a world that promotes such behavior. Our leaders/masters would rather us be docile sheep, never leaving the herd, because

it makes things easier for them. People aren't born the way they are, we are taught and conditioned to act in a certain manner. So wouldn't it make more sense to attack the institutions of mass control rather than just those people they have warped?

And on the subject of attacking, let me say that I DO see the struggle for power and the means of survival as an important fight. But I feel that the way one goes about that struggle is what needs to be examined. I see the means as totally inseparable from the end. To divorce the two would be disasterous. And here we come to the subject of "Fascist Anarchism." Fascism and anrachism are at completely different ends of the spectrum. Fascism is defined as an an extremely regimented form of capitalist society in which the state apparatus has consolidated political and economic power into joint institutions. Fascism as a mode of capitalist organization died after World War 2: modern Western liberal democratic states are much more efficient at handling captial. Anarchism is a bit tricky to define due to the fact that various anti-authoritarian tendencies use the label. I myself am an Anarchist-Communist or a libertarian-socialist. I advocate the absolute destruction of capitalism and all authoritarian institutions, i.e. the State. Power must decentralized as much as possible and should be controlled directly by industrial and community committees and assemblies that are federated on a local, then regional, then continental and finally international level. People won't be "kept in line" since the bulk of crime today is economic and when the producers control the means of production, they will have no reason to steal what they can get for free.

Now this may sound as if it could lead to another oppressive situation in which one sector dominates another. In all honesty, no one can tell what would happen during a social revolution, there is no blueprint; but if we live by the code "the means are not separable from the ends," and are concise in our efforts towards building a freer society, then we stand a good chance of furthering our goal. It must also be understood that social revolution is not going to break out tomorrow. Revolution is the upheaval that occurs at the end of an evolutionary process where a large segment of society developes a new understanding of class society and realizes that progressive change can only come with a transcendence of capitalist/authoritarian institutions. ...Oh, and by the way, during the Spanish Revolution of 1936-'9, Anarchists and other socialists fought hard against the Fascist military led by Franco.

To finish this article let me express a few of my opinions on music. Music is music. Various cultures have their own brand. I got into punk because it seemed intelligent. It seemed like people getting together to help and support each other(dare I say a touch cooperation and mutual aid?). Punk did seem to be a scene where people cared about being individuals. I thought it was tough in not so much a macho way but more like that kind of tough that people who dare to stand up are. Not afraid of ridicule or gossip. Non-conformists. But alas, most of what was punk and will be punk isn't like that. It is just another faction, with some good and some bad. I as a whole is not a rebel culture, but there are rebels in it. Punk and hardcore has meant and will mean a lot to me, but it will never change the world.

Also, two last things about Adel's column. Some hip-hop has a hell of a lot to say, and it would benefit one to gove it a listen, not just for reasons of fashion or trend. Second, what is Adel 156 trying to say about girls? I've known a lot of women who could kick most mens' asses any day!

Long live the free spirit! Long live solidarity!

#### EDITOR'S CORNER

Regarding the conflicting views of Adel and Christian, keep in mind I don't agree with either of them, but both of them bring up things that are important to think about. As editor I think I'd better try to keep my views on Communism, Fascism, and Anachronism(--oh, sorry, Anarchism, ha ha) to myself. Comparing their two articles, it looks like Adel thinks that in today's world

the capable people are held back too much by incapable ones, while Chrisitan thinks that in the right social situation everyone would be capable and noone would be in the way. Since Adel never got to see Christian's article, I have to put in a word on his behalf: no matter what happens, people will always have different levels of ability. That will never change. Now, what Adel leaves out is the fact that cooperation can be the most beneficial interaction between Individuals, and Christian is right to bring that up; but as people will always have different levels of ability, it must be borne in mind that cooperation is only mutually beneficial when it takes place between individuals of similar capabilities. Otherwise the lazier, weaker, stupider, slower, less responsible person will end up gaining the most in proportion to his effort while the person who sweats and stays up all night working will get less for his trouble than if he had worked alone (in fact, that situation is exactly the one Marx describes when he proclaims "from each according to his means to each according to his need" as the foundation of communism.) Now a little charity is a good thing, it can keep the world around us from getting too ugly; but I've learned earlier in my life that any relationship, on any scale, will break down if one party must do all the giving and receive nothing. So while it is a mistake to desire a world of "each at war with all" as beneficial to the individual, it is equally wrong to believe that a universal cooperation could exist, because some people would simply not be able to contribute enough to make up for what they took away. As a communist, Christian should consider that it is particularly important for a communist society to include only people of similar abilities, for more than any other that sort of society depends on the productivity and self-motivation of its members. OK, enough of that shit.

I've noticed some errors so far in the rest of this issue: I think I left out Starkweather's address, it's PO Box 11739, Philadelphia, PA 19101. Also, the second time I say "Bound" in my review of the "Soundtrack to the Revolution" 7", I mean "Knockdown"...that was a stupid mistake. And, in my news section, when I say Converge has a split 7" due with "Virginia Mayday-style band MAYDAY," I really mean "CHANNEL"--they just sound so much like Mayday that I got confused! OK, thanks alot for your support and interest, it means a lot to me. Take care.

# STARKWEATHER INTERVIEW

Starkweather is a band from Philadelphia, PA that has a sound unlike any other: ugly metal with excruciatingly complex rhythms, and vocals that change from raspy growling to haunting singing. They've released an out-of-press demo, a LD "Crossbearer" on Harvest records(now available as a CD from 2DamnHype rec's), a 7" on the French label Inner Rage, and some songs on the new 2DamnHype compilation "Philly Dust Crew" that also includes songs by All Out War, Dare to Defy, and Hard Response...the songs on the compilation are the same as the ones on the 7", plus another song, which also appeared on the "Food Not Bombs" compilation(Gregg Bateman, 53 W. Park Ave., Lindenwold, NJ 08021) with bands like Current and Franklin. They just finished recording 2 new songs and new versions of "Shards" & "Unto Me" from the CD for a 10"/CD on Very Distribution's new record label; after that release they will release another record on Very or on another label, probably by summer. Rennie described the new music as having even more odd tempos and "weird acoustic breaks" than their old songs; he says he finds "verse-chorus style songs really boring." After the Starkweather record, Very will probably do a record with acclaimed German (Slayer/Rorshach style?) band Acme. Singer Rennie and Guitarist Todd work together at a place called "Ragtime"; Todd and bassist Michelle have been going out for a long time, and drummer Harry is the newest member of the band. None of the band members have really been in other bands before, and the band is really all they do besides work, according to Todd, although Michelle does some

painting (she painted the cover of the All Out War 7", and, I believe, the cover of the CD) and Rennie does some drawing. Rennie says Harry is the only member of the band that has any sort of convential musical knowledge, that the others are entirely self-taught and that is partly why their style is so unusual. Todd says that, consequently, as a technical guitarist he is "horrible," and "can't play solos"; they don't play covers because it takes them "so long to learn their own music," and because the bands they enjoy, like the Amoebix, for example, are completely unknown to their audience. Todd even sald that some of his songwriting comes from him trying to play other people's songs and "completely fucking them up," then using the remainder as a new song.

The band is named after a notorious youth, Charles Starkweather, who went on a killing spree in the 1950's. Rennie told me they picked that name because "it fit the music." not because they advocate homicide. He said that when the band started they decided to aim for a "more intricate, off the wall sound," because the other bands in their area all were trying to do the New York style. Rennie said his singing/growling vocals were inspired partly by his variety of influences, from the Accused to some Japanese hardcore. As far as composing lyrics, Rennie says he is constantly writing in notebooks he keeps around, and only fleshes his writing out into song lyrics after the other members have completed a song. He's never really tried writing short stories as well as lyrics because he says he doesn't have the time. He told me about the lyrics to their song "Mean Streets": they were written about different parts of Philadelphia, and different shit that's taken place there: a homeless woman who set herself on fire in 1986, an incident that Rennle and his friend witnessed once when they'd just returned fron New York: "Getting off the subway, we see this guy holding his throat with the blood going everywhere, these cops around him are like "everything's fine," and we're like "yeah, OK," because this guy's fucking dying...you know the cops don't want to touch him because they're so afraid of AIDS," some girl who got killed in Rennie's neighborhood, and other events in Philadelphia. He described the song "Lazarus Runs" as telling about a time in Rennie's life when he was living out in the woods. Rennie says their lyrics are meant to tell stories from his life, he writes lyrics more to get things out of his sytem than for other people to understand, he says it is "stress management" because if he "didn't do that he probably would go kill somebody." He said not to ever expect any positive subjects in his lyrics, because that's "not me." Rennie said it was "a contradiction" that he and Todd are in a band, since they're so antisocial and are not primarily concerned with whether people understand their music or not. Originally, Rennie wanted the band to be a studio project, but he says "you have to play shows if people are going to take you seriously -- he enjoys the shows, but he can't stand all the driving and long waits that shows involve. Todd says he'd like to do tours, but only "short ones, because none of us can afford to lose our jobs," since they're all in their mid-twenties and have a lot of financial concerns. Todd says that though he tries not to "I admit I get jealous and bitter sometimes" about bands who succeed really easily, including some straightedge bands who seem to have a "built-in audience" just because of their beliefs, especially in places like Jersey in Syracuse. For their part, Starkweather don't claim to represent any political stance at all, because they can't agree on issues and most of all because they don't think it's their place as a band. Rennle graduated college with a political science degree, but he doesn't work in that filed because "it's a bunch of snakes." He works where he does, doing manual labor, because it's more honest and leaves him free to concentrate on music, etc. when he's not a work. He says he'll have to find a new career eventually, though, because over time manual labor breaks you down--you can't do it forever. Given the right deal, Starkweather would sign with a major label like Geffen: Todd says "small labels aren't necessarily nicer guys than big ones...working with bigger labels you have to make sure you're treated fairly, while with smaller ones you have

to watch out for incomptetence."

As far as other bands to recommend, Todd cites All Out War("the best band in New York right now") and denies that they are more death metal than hardcore: "it depends on how you define death-metal and hardcore, those guys all come from hardcore backgrounds." He also mentioned Overcast from Boston, Lash Out from Norway, and Autumn("super-talented musicians," some of whom are in their mid-teens, impressively). Rennie mentioned some of his favorite musicians to me: Dead Can Dance, Inslaughter Natives from Sweden who did some work with the deathmetal band Seance, singer Diamonda Galas, old pre-industrial band Einsturzende Neubaten, and classical composers like Holst, Varesz, and Mahler. He also appreciates the art of Joe Coleman and some comic book artists: Bill Senkowitz(who does "Stray Toasters," and, six years ago, "Electro-Assassins"), Dave McKean(who did some album covers and covers for the "Sandman" comic), and Ted McKeever. Rennie described himself as "constantly reading" and mentioned Joyce Carrol Oates, Doris Lessing, Mark Richard(author of "Fishboy", which he describes as "real lyrical") and John Gardner(author of "Grendel").

Rennie told me that Starkwesther doesn't really fit or want to fit into any particular scene band- or crowd-wise, that they only bands they feel comfortable with are bands like Crisis("who are sort of in the same boat we are," he says, in reference to their unusual style) and that at their shows both "hardcore and metal kids show up, and they just don't get along"--which causes fights and other trouble. Todd said the "metal kids have actually been way more accepting" of Starkweather's unusual style and lack of membership in any particular scene... "he doesn't hold it against" the younger hardcore kids, but he feels that his "definition of hardcore is way different than theirs": "to me, hardcore is being almost 30 years old, working a full time job, driving seven hours to Boston to play for 30 people for \$5, driving back home to go to work the next day without any sleep...and sticking with this kind of music for 15 years, sticking with it when it was dangerous," like when he first got into hardcore when he lived in upsate NY; he said he would get his "ass beat almost every time he left the house." Todd said Starkweather certainly doesn't have anything against younger hardcore bands or bands with different beliefs than theirs. In the case of straightedge, he said that he and Rennie live a lifestyle that is straightedge in effect, but do not feel the need to proclaim it; they would have been willing to describe themselves as such until some of the straight edge scene became "an embarassment." Todd isn't too concerned about drug-users, he says they're free to kill themselves off: "then I can get a better parking spot!" Rennie says it's only a problem for him when they break into his car for change, or hold a gun to his head, like his ex-roomate's drug-dealing friend did a few months back.

# SYSTEMS OVERLOAD a column by Dwid

Looking around on these streets, there's nothing left to do; penance through your charities, now it's turned on you. Demons looking in on me, slipping through the cracks, watching, starving, waiting, timing their attack... Beyond the flesh that imprisons, beyond the death you've envisioned, beyond the fear you'll embrace, giving your life a foul taste; System's overloading, fear envelopes me--Cry out for redemption, blind, forgoteen--seen All the while fighting, trying to get on top--once the focus changes all your senses...

This song is the product of a mental debate I had concerning my obligations to straight-edge. I wanted to determine whether I should use my position to attempt to influence others into becoming straight edge, or take a hint and let everyone live as they please unless it somehow comes to affect me. And then react accordingly through violence.

I feel that there is no hope of having a drug free society and I don't even know if I would want such a thing to exist. And why should I be so vain as to think that I could change the world? I am not a role model and I never intended to masquerade as one. My being straight edge was for myself, my friends, and my freedom.

As I look out around me at the streets that surround my house, the city that hosts my freiends and family, all I see is parasites living off one another at any cost. The demons I see looking in on me are a constant reminder of the true face of humanity. And they're watching, starving, waiting for the most opportune time to attack. These demons place so much importance on escaping their mundane everyday lives by doing these drugs that they eventually forget these lives and become someone else. People that I've known and treated like family have turned into everything I hate most in the world. I try to think rationally, I even try to remember the friends that they were, yet when I do all that I see is strangers out to take all that is mine...with the audicty to believe that I somehow "owe" them for evolving into so much more than the pathetic beggars they've inevitably become, living their lives for the quickest sense gratification possible.

Now don't misunderstand me, I feel no regret, for like them, my feelings from our past relationship have dissipated. I no longer need their companionship. The people they used to be are now barely memories, like the smoke fading from the bridges they've left burning behind them. I now sit back and enjoy watching their downfalls, knowing I am much better off than them. But I still can't help but wonder what they could have become.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT Compilation

I had a lot of trouble with many of the bands that promised me songs for the compilation that comes with this 'zine. Many cancelled on me because of laziness, avoidable problems, or sheer ineptitude. I'm not saying that they didn't have their reasons, but so long as people in hardcore permit reasons like the ones they had to hold them back, hardcore will go nowhere. Special thanks to Apartment 213 for apparantly *lying* to me and saying they'd sent me a recording when they'd never even planned to. Kids, don't trust that band or work with them, they'll fuck you over in an instant...seems like they're so busy floundering about, fucking themselves up they can't help but fuck everyone else over in the process. Still, I think I've got a good compilation here, so enjoy it & write to any of the bands you like. I've included a write-up on each one.

In the fall of 1995 whe they're both out of press, I'm going to release the  $\underline{NO}$   $\underline{EXIT}$  compilation and this compilation,  $\underline{POINT}$  COUNTERPOINT, together on one CD.

#### LASH OUT: "As Life Takes the Knife to its Heart"

Blew out the candle, brought the night to my house; I invited it inside, let it conquer my mirror...read their books and laughed, in a locked room I kept my child-took it out to be shot in daylight, it had my dreams on its chest when buried. Nameless faceless cornered son of mine... Felt the warmth of cold steel and the loneliness of the silence and the emptiness in my power, the strength of a sodacan. Homeless breathless broken son of mine... Planting seeds to stomp the flower down, send it off shore just to let it drown adrift at the sea of nothing peel off the wounds to stop the bleeding. Meet the circle, the center of your history, the wheel of life. It controls your blasphemy, you go into struggle to take your own flag and to protect the worn path, sing death's

silence, silence... Air fills the holes, the shadow takes my place, water fills the veins, the lies occupy my tongue: breath bleed breed the dark seed... The pieces play the game, I inhale the true day; the past oozes from my cracks, history turns its yellowed page... Nameless... trapped by the mask, chained to the man... Homeless... torn, bitter, bruised Life manifests itself...

LASH OUT are: Anders, Frank, Havard, Björnar, Vegard. Write to Vegard Waske, Nordskogun. 1, 6400 Molde, Norway. If you dare, call Havard at +++47-71-25-53-91. L.O. appears courtesy of Stromstrike rec's(Kollmersreuterstr. 12, 79312 Emmendingen, Germany, phone/fax +++49-7641-570832). Doghouse rec's distribute L.O. records in the U.S. Thanks to Brian and all that support us, this one is for you! Coming up are L.O. longplay CD on SSr in April, pretty heavy & mean, that's what we think. Look out for LASH OUT on the Endless Fight CD comp, a split 7" with Atlas Shrugged on MooCow rec's, a split 7" with Brother's Keeper on Lake Effect rec's(most probably), and other projects, so watch out.

## BROTHER'S KEEPER: "The Gift" (As the colors fade)

Turn back the world, as I recall, my dreams built on your back I watch you fall--progress the world regress inside--your dream built on my back this time--Look at this cage that we construct around our age, don't turn the page or you might miss the gift I gave you, the gift I meant to save you like the gift meant to save me--As the colors fade I can't recall the dreams we made 'Hard to find this gift that transcends time, yours to mine, generations left behind, far from sight--Our dreams fade to black and white.

B.K. have a 7" out on their own label & three other new songs coming out on compilations. Write: Lake Effect, PO Box 11363, Erie, PA 16514-1363

## ABHINANDA: 'Inner Qualities' + 'Dragon'

INNER QUALITIES: You will wake up someday and realize I'm more than just this shape, your dream is a conflict created by my appearance, just mundane speculations, foundations built on sand. Your state of hate is no more than fear. I'm not free from hate and fear, actions and words really scare me. You know I'm more than bones and flesh, external characteristics are not the guide to the inner self. You're limited by your glory and pride, just dogma; your insecurities will never let you see over your predicted judgement. You've built a wall of stone around your beliefs: I'll try to prove that even stone can be pulverized. It's just a proof of how blind we are how we can judge because of what we look like, we are all the same inside. Remove the stupid blindfold of prejudice and let the inner qualities shine. And when you know me, it's your right to go on and hate me. It's blind hate.

DRAGON: Purification is at hand, it's time for a higher level; your crime will be forgiven if you surrender to my prayer. Your destiny is hell and your morals will burn with you if you refuse salvation. Respect is salvation. The dragon of knowledge descended from heaven to prove that respect is more than the answer to the eternal quest of disharmony, to prove that the time has come to show respect. TO SHOW RESPECT...

Jonas/drums, Kris Stone/guitar, Adam/guitar, Mattias Abris/bass, Jose/voice. Abhinanda appear on the Desperate Fight rec's "SXE as Fuck" CD comp, and

have a CD "Senseless" out on that label. More Abhi releases coming on D.F. and releases by many other bands, including Reach, Ressurection, Drift Apart, Final Exit... CDep by Shield(x-Solitude) just released on D.F. Write Abhi/Desperate Fight rec's: Kemigr 16, 90731 Umea, Sweden.

CATHARSIS--"Our Fight." Song Originally by CONFRONT from Cleveland, OH. We must get our priorities straight and work together to end all this hate. Prejudice is so bucking wrong: blacks and whites, straights and gays, men and women can be equally strong. We must unite: this is OUR bight.

Bass/F. Mark Dixon, Drums/Alexei, Vocals & Guitars/Dingledine. Recorded 11/94 at Sleepless Nights Studios, Atlanta, by Issa("Lisa without the L") Diaou. Write to Catharsis care of Inland Empire. Thanks: Otis Reem, you.

#### BACKLASH: "Self Assured"

I can't remember the last time I walked with fear in my step or my talk. I'm good to go whenever I say so. And when I'm filled up...I overflow! Confidence, confidence is in me. No more at the right place at the wrong time, now all my times are prime times. I won't fall, I won't stop or stall, because if I do I'm going A.W.O.L. Don't misjudge me and call this conceit, I'm just making sure my mistakes won't repeat! I'm sure! I'm self-assured! I'm not lost, I have no regrets or second thoughts. I'm willing to do what it takes at all costs. With the skills I've gained and my state of mind, I'm on top and won't fall behind. I must confess I possess the best of anyone else, because I'm above the rest. I think positive, give all I can give, 100% because that's how I live. Don't ever think on the negative side because negativity does not coincide with confidence and the positive vibe. Never let anything stop that strive!

Pete/vocals, Scott/guitar, Ron/bass, Jon/drums. Recorded at Trax East Studios in 8/94. Thanks: Dwid & Integrity, Mike '51 (previously from Reno), Catharsis, Josh/Endless Fight rec's, Break Even Point rec's, Scott Foster, Chris Logan & Chokehold, the other bands on this comp, and everyone else who's helped us out. Fuck off: Brian/Inside Front. "Self Assured" is on our 12" "Inside" on Brk. Even P. rec's...Write: 16 Simpson Ct., Bergenfield, NJ 07621 201-384-5944.

#### TENSION: "Greed"

I'm sick and tired of the rich man's attitude, I'm sick and tired that the poor always lose to a seed of hate that breeds in everyone, that walks the earth today, a seed of hate that grows and spreads until someone has to pay. I hold on. I fight against your system that's not right. You lost control, let it unfold the hate you breed, the hate you know, the lack of trust, the hate you show, the pain you feel, the pain you spread, the pain inflicts until someone's dead, the pride you had outgrew yourself, the pride you had out knew yourself, the cause that you so rightly fought: getting ahead at any cost, your greed. We've reached the decisive hour to rise up stronger and mightier, I struggle to replace the old. One class holding the future in our hands, in the words of a revolutionary. I speak bold against this exploitation. Your system has broken down so badly that the dominant class is unable to rule. The strength and power of the rich is in their money but the strength of the oppressed is in our numbers ... YOUR GREED IS WHAT HOLDS US BACK.

Chris/drums, Ray/bass, Mike/vocals, Joe/guitar. Write: Ray, 9617 Riverside

Drive, Apt. C6, Coral Springs, FL 33071. Other TENSION music is available from ENDLESS FIGHT records.

#### TIMESCAPE ZERO: "Honor Among Theives"

Rob from the rich & give to yourself, thinking in the end you'll share all this wealth. Whether it be a stranger or friend, you'll steal from either--to this there's no end! Beat down for a rock, to this your fellas flock. I won't join your gang, I won't talk your slang, your actions I won't mack! Honor among theives, sinking in a ship of fools. Somehow you think "Boy, I'm making all the rules!" Sorry, but your rules don't apply in this game. Don't know what you're looking for, here there's no fame!

Beatkeepr/Kyle Miller, Oi!Oi! Bass boy/Stan Obal III, Riffage/Bry, Angry screaming guy/Adel 156. Copyright 1994 Timescape music. Write: PO Box 820407, South Florida, FL 33082-0407...for a list of cool shit(free demos), honestly cheap material(\$2. 7"s) & a hell of a lot more, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Band correspondence is welcome. Also, anyone with information on good books, magazines, fanzines, cults, & weapon manipulation techniques is strongly encouraged to write!

#### ATLAS SHRUGGED: "Tribe of a Man"

The fumes included along with the heat engulfed by hunger and suffocated by smoke collaborated by my hands and fire fills me with rage. Breathe in my smoke, my dance-the tribe of souls, of man-from fileds, to castles, through kingdoms a fire, a smoke, a war. Drown our earth in an ocean of fire, a tidal wave by man himself. Lion king leads his clan away, away to die in the jungle where the pain is stripped away. The tribe of a man, himself and all his wealth, a pocketful of fire and smoke, smothered by a war. Engulf me, burn away...follow me into oblivion.

Chris Weinblad/vocals, John Focht/bass, Mark Calimbas/guitar, Terry Brennan/drums. 7 song Lp out on Trip Machine Laboratories, split 7" with Lash Out on MooCow rec's out 5/95. Band members are also in the bands Palentine(with x-members of Uppercut & Minds Eye, sound like "Statue meets Turning Point," 7" due on Trip Machine) and GMK(with x-members of Dahlia Seed & SWAT, sounds "somewhere between Iceburn & deathmetal," 7" also due on T.M.) A full A.S. 7" may be released on Trip Machine in late '95, as may a Dahlia Seed 7", a CD from NY's Bulldoze, and other records. Write: Trip Machine/Atlas Shrugged, PO Box 36, New City, NY 10956-0036.

### OTIS REEM: "Persistence"

I fight this "real world," its rules designed to hold me back from finding out who I am, from straying from a predetermined track; trying to keep me in line in time with another's beat, providing the means for self-destruction for those who can't take the heat—You can't take the heat! (ska!) Have patience, your time will come; your turn will come like everyone's does so don't give in, keep holding on. Don't run away, you've got inside all the strength you need, no need to ever run and hide. Saboteurs left and right, someone always in the way There will be suckas out to get you at every turn who want to see you stray from the path that you have chosen, the path you know is right; but keep an open mind, believe in yourself and there's no way you will lose your fight!

You can't get anywhere without persistence, in this life you've got to have persistence. It's what survival is about, because luck doesn't last. Stand up for yourself, you've got to make yourself see that to get by in this life it's all you need. There's just no room for apathy, a life without cause is a wasted existence. Realize your dreams through persistence. You can't pull yourself up by putting me down, just look out for your friends, family and yourself--know your limits but don't limit yourself and persistence will help you through! Chris Huggins/guitars, F. Mark Dixon/bass, Alexei Rodriguez/vocals-drumstimbalis, David Drossman/vocals, Birch Graves/alto sax, Erik Nugent/baritone sax, John Caison/trumpet, Daniel Rice(standing in for Brian Thacker)/trombone. Recorded Feb 11-12, 1995 at Overdub Lane, Durham NC(919-309-0838), engineered by John Plymale. Song by Drossman/Rodriguez/huggins/Dixon. Backing vocals: Rodriguez/Huggins/Drossman/Graves/Dingledine. Special thanks: Daniel (for filling in for Brian), John Plymale(great engineering, once again), & ourselves! Otis Reem: 901 Kings Mill Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514. If you like this, order O.R. song "The Sophomore" on a split 7" with the Fiacsos from MOON rec's(P.O. Box 1412, New York, NY 10276, 201-857-7044). Two OTIS songs will also be coming out on a CD comp from Inbred rec's(407-381-2522).

## NEWS, UPDATES, REPORTS

For shows in NC call Jim at 910-960-5530. We have a 30+ band festival due to happen here April; 21-23, 1995, so consider checking that out if you can. VICTORY records seems to have a new phone # again: 312-666-8661, but they still have the same address(PO Box 146546, Chicago, IL 60614). They've just released a CD of all the old Victory 7"s from '89-'92, and rereleased the ancient NYHC Cause for Alarm record on CD; about to be rereleased on Victory Cd's are: the first Earth Crisis 7" "All Out War." and the brutal Vegan(politically untenable & fascist) RAID discography. Also due are a Snapcase Ep, the Earth Crisis Lp, something by Swedish band Doughnuts. Rockabilly band HiFi & the Roadburners just put out their full-length on Victory, if you don't like rockabilly don't knock it...that just might mean you're closed minded. I know I'm gonna retire into rockabilly when I've done my time in hardcore, ha ha. Also, Tony has put in a lot of work in his label & it's one of the best things in our scene today, so don't knock Victory just because they've gotten farther than your messy immature shit 'zine. VICTORY also does a distribution about as big as the legendary VERY distribution(Very:9 E. Saylor Avenue, Plains, PA 18702)...between the two of them you can find almost any h/c record still in press. The incredible new INTEG-RITY LP is also almost out on Victory, it just has to come back from the factories. Frank of deceased, rabid Cleveland band RINGWORM now plays in Integrity. Also in Ohio, DOGHOUSE rec's(PO Box 8946, Toledo, OH 43623) now carry about 50 different t-shirts for their various emo/hc bands. The label itself is moving towards softy shit, but they distribute the German label Stormstrike which has really great, hard holy-terror music like Lash Out. So If you want that stuff in the US, contact them. Another label that does distribution is Conquer the World(PO Box 40282, Redford, MI 48240)...but they're irresponsible about getting things out on time, among other things, and they're getting a bad reputation... I expect their days in this scene are limited. They've been advertising their latest releases with slogans like "not for the toughies" anyway, so go figure -- maybe they'll "move on" to pop music next. A label that seems to be getting pretty serious about distributing records is TEMPERANCE(Central Square, Suite 24B, Linwood, NJ 08221, 609-926-9542) -- I don't know about their recent releases, though; I haven't heard them yet but they don't seem to be exactly hardcore...

notice a trend? SECOND NATURE is another 'zine/distribution to keep an eye on(PO Box 11543, Kansas City, MO 64138). The Andrew Thomas Co.(55 Searle St, Pittson, PA 18640) is primarily a SXE shirt company, but they distribute records, demos, videos, & 'zines as well...while we're on the subject, ROUND FLAT rec's(63 Lennox Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14226-4226) has inherited an entire warehouse full of weird, discontinued major label records & has a catalogue full of them -- so for a look at some unusual stuff, write them. Some of it is rare punk/hardcore, and they have some records for as cheap as \$2 for a 12". Wow. They have normal records too. Speaking of distributions, hardcore hero Vegard Waske of Lash Out is starting a European distribution, DEUCE...so if you live there, write him about that at the Lash Out address. Some upcoming releases from Crucial Response rec's(Peter Hoeren, Kalsersfeld 98, 46047 Oberhausen, Germany) are the Spawn CD, the Man Lifting Banner CD, the FarCry CD, and I guess a repress of the classic Brotherhood record on CD. Be warned that when I sent that guy some of my stuff to distribute, he sent me records in return instead of the previously agreed on cash...records I'd never heard of, and not enough of them, too. For a really good newsletter with scene reports from all over the world, contact Yann Boisleve(BP 7523, 35 075 Rennes Cedex 3 FRANCE) Back to the USA: Mike Rhodes/Area 51 records has had to move, so his previous Nevada address is no longer in effect. I don't know if he has a permanent new address, but if you need to reach him try writing him care of Mike Edwards(PO Box 10221, Scottesdale, AZ 85271)...the 7" comp with Integrity, Catharsis, Backlash, & Congress is still coming on his label; I think the Bludgeon 7" on his label is out of press, and the Gehenna/Apartment 213 split 7" on his label is either delayed or cancelled due to Apt. 213 being lazy fucking jerks and possibly liars too. 717 records is a new label in Pennsylvania, they'll be releasing a Penn h/c comp 7" soon with Deckard, Brother's Keeper, Option, and Outcome. Those are all good bands so it should be a good record...write 717 at the address of Break Free 'zine in the reviews. Also at this address is Big Mouth 'zine distribution, and they have some other projects coming up. Another new record label is FIGURE FOUR(35 Ellab Latham Way, E. Bridgewater, MA 02333); they have a split Ipecac/Opposition 7" out, and a Dive 7" and Bound 12" coming. Rick, the singer of tough NYHC band 25 TA LIFE(86 3rd Avenue, Patterson, NJ 07514) has a new 'zine called Back Ta Basics coming from that address. ENDLESS FIGHT rec's(PO Box 1083, Old Saybrook, CT 06475-6083) just released the Dissolve 7", which I've heard is complex, metallic, really good h/c-influenced music. Their newest release is the "Over the Edge" two compilation(see the inland Empire distribution list for more information). In the future are a Catharsis 7" & paraphernalia. Boston emo/weird/hardcore band CONVERGE is not really broken up, they have 3 new songs for a split 7" with Virginia Mayday-style band MAYDAY on Converge's own EARTHMAKER rec's(580 Commonwealth Avenue, Apt. 24, Boston, MA 02215, 617-530-9670), which will also be releasing a 7" by 7% Solution, a band with a "chaotic & crazy" sound, that may be metamorphosizing into a new band, as yet nameless. Lost & Found rec's(see Cornerstone demo review for address) may be releasing the entire discography of Converge material on one CD. Virginia holy-terror band MAYDAY is slowly working on a 4-song 9" record/CD to come out on Stormstrike records; they're supposed to spend June '95 touring Europe. Florida holy-terror band BLOODLET(PO Box 11036, Orlando, FL 32803-0036) has two CD's coming out on Overkill rec's: a discography of all their old stuff, called "Eclectic," and a full-length of new songs and revised versions of "Eucharist" and "One and Only." If you're concerned about animal rights, one of the best new things to happen in that field is Animal Cause(427 Mountain Rd., Holyoke, MA 01040), a newsletter and animal rights literature distributor with many pages of pamphlets and books available, most of them practically for free. It's done by some sincere hardcore kids, so check it out. Young SXE filmmaker David Berryman(True Aim productions, 3324 Spruce Lane, Grapevine,

TX 76051, 512-480-8529) will be touring the country this summer to do a documentary on SXE hardcore in America. If you want to support one of your comrades in supporting the scene and making a great movie, contact him--he needs all the help he can get. And, well-known or not, you just might go down in history. PUNK UPRISINGS(Susan Wills, 6013 Bonnie Bern Ct., Burke, VA 22015) does a cable access TV-show and prints articles in music magazines, both available across the country, concerning hardcore and punk. Oh yeah, one more thing. The following bands and labels have contacted me to complain about the conduct of Hearsay records: Cornerstone, Overcast, Converge, Endless Fight rec's, Area 51 rec's, and many more that I can't recall, plus many different individuals. Apparantly Hearsay never sent copies of records to bands who gave them songs for the records--for instance, all the bands on the "North by Northeast" 7" comp, and some other bands--and when approached about it they never got back to the bands...instead they disconnected their voice mail and refused to return letters. Hearsay also bootlegged the Dive/Opposition split demo onto a 7", and bootlegged old Converge and Overcast songs onto a 7" with no permission. That's fucked up. Consider it before you work with Hearsay again.

#### SCENE REPORT: North East Coast

Provided by Tom Cavanaugh in Syracuse. Syracuse band CROSS-SECTION(2 singers, one guy, one girl; melodic sound, one 7" out already) is recording for a 7" to come out on a European label, and neighbors SOULSTICE are recording a full-length for Scorched Earth rec's(PO Box 76, Stanton, NJ 08885) Deathmetal-influenced Syracuse band BLOOD RUNS BLACK are recording a CDep for Harvest rec's. GATEKEEPER is a band formed by members of broken up GREEN RAGE and singer Shane from Framework...they have a demo out. Emo Syracuse band CAMPFIRE, which has Joel from Encounter and Josh from Trustkill 'zine, have a CD available from the Trustkill label. Boston crazy metallic band OVERCAST has a long overdue 7" coming out eventually on Inner Rage records in France, get it from Very distribution...it's called "Stirring the Killer" and a new version of the song "Grifter" from the Endless Fight rec's CD, "Scar the Mind" from that CD, and an unreleased song "Forecast." JASTA 14 are back together with a new singer, after their old one Jamie of Stillborn rec's started the band Hatebreed.

#### REPORT FROM MIAMI & THE WORLD -Adel 156

Timescape Zero is looking for a new drummer and bassist. A new band called CULTURE (sound like Mean Season) have an LP due out on Conquer the World records. Hardcore isdead here! No joke. This is the part where I would usually mention fanzines, but to be honest with you there isn't one worth mentioning that comes out of Florida(except mine, of course).

Some interesting things abroad are fanzines like Nice Guys Finish Last(P.O. Box 43285, Las Vegas, NV 89116). It's \$4.00 postpaid and has tons of dark humor in an angry and cynical way, giving you tons of stuff against humanity with articles like "Serial Killers--Nature's Garbagemen" and "Humans--What's the Use?" Another one that is likely to piss off every PC kid in the world is the (In)famous Answer Me!(1608 N. Cahuenga Blvd #666, Hollywood, CA 90028). It's \$4.00 postpaid and issue 2 comes with the top 100 serial killers of all time and interviews with David Duke, Anton Lavey, and more. Issue 3 has the top 100 suicides of all time and interviews with NAMBLA, Boyd Rice, and Al Sharpton, and a crank call to Dr. Jack Kevorkian. Issue 4 out soon with Lord knows what.

Bored at night? Looking for good flicks? Try "The Catalogue of Carnage." They sell human body parts legally, but they have a great video catalogue for only \$2.00. It has

a version of Apocalypse Now that runs with an extra 90 minutes of unseen footage! They carry the live suicide of Bud Dwyer(with a .357 to the head complete with blood gushing out his nose like a garden hose). Each video is \$17 each, or \$14 with their coupon. They have tons of European and Japanese gore flicks and much much more.(F.E.E. 327 W. Laguna, Tempe, AZ 85282)

For those of you interested in more information on the article I wrote on Social Darwinism, you can reach the headquarters of the Abraxas foundation by writing them and sending a stamped self-addressed envelope(PO Box 300081, Denver, CO 80203). That's all the information I really have at the moment. Enjoy all you do, and remember Life is War, War is Life...live with it!

## SOCIAL DARWINISM by Adel 156

At the most primary level, one could easily define life as a by-product of energy feeding upon energy. We are all locked in a game in which life feeds upon life. We are all the participants in this feeding frenzy that constitutes the unchanging perfection of Nature's Order. Unfortunately, there exists today an ever-widening schism between the world of Man and the world of Nature. Humanity in its confusion has "attempted to "transcend" and dominate Nature. It has in no way whatsoever succeeded. In fact, anyone seeking testament as to why mankind has failed need only contrast the qualities of Nature with those of Man.

Nature is typified by strength, humanity by weakness. Nature adheres to an im-mutable Order, Man to an ever-increasing chaos. Nature recognizes absolutely no equality,
while humanity preaches an all-pervasive equality and freely hands out unearned "rights" in
an attempt to make this doctrine a reality. In short, Nature is fascist, humanity democratic.
Nature extracts and replaces whatever it deems necessary. Humanity votes and often gives
those unable to decide which pair of shoes to wear the right to chose who will run an
entire nation!

All men whose actions serve the will of Nature serve their own will, for man is synonymous with Nature and not, as is commonly assumed, separate from it. Nature is prejudiced, Nature is does not believe in equality. Nature has written the law: *Quality over Equality!* The evolution of life is the most striking instance of this fundamental truth. Evolution is a process of elimination, in which those not able to survive DIE OFF!

More often than not, they are KILLED OFF!

Let's get one thing straight, before you start calling me a racist! When I say "quality over equality," I am not talking about one race being superior to another. Rather, "inequality" becomes evident when we judge one not by race, color, creed, religion, etc., but by individual talents and superior qualities rather than membership in a category.

Should a man (no matter what color!) receive handed-out "rights" or benefits because he is not only unproductively lazy, but greedy to live off a system in which he is subsidized by our tax dollars? This is the problem with equality and the welfare system. Today's economic structure is set up for the strong to be dominated by the meek. We are all working in some sort of rat race to pay for welfare and healthcare for those who wish to simply live off YOU. Therefore the weak and lazy are living off the sweat and blood of the strong, who get up off their asses to face the world and do something productive!

Man must see that Nature (although not a "thinking entity") believes in eugenics (upbreeding through genetic selection), "thinning the herd" (depopulation by killing off the weak), dysgenics (exerting a detrimental effect on later generations so as to depopulate), constant struggle, and inequality. Man has to adhere to this law, plain and simple. We will not be able to realize any kind of harmony until this is realized. It requires a vision of

harmony as set down by Nature's brutal perfection. A violent harmony which not only em--braces truth, love and understanding, but also war, strife, and inequality.

I can see it now, groups of Ebullition and HeartattaCk fans outside my door, picketing. Hate mail from those who openly promote love and peace, calling me a fascist. They themselves are afraid of the strong dominating the weak.

What does this have to do with hardcore music? Everything. Punk and hardcore were a way to get away from the norm, away from mass-herdism, mass-conformity, blind faith, and empty-headed consumerism. Yet today the hardcore scene is dominated by self-righteous, holier-than-thou white middle class children who either try to tell you in which direction your politics should lean or how to act on the streets with this fake tough-guy "I should be listening to hip hop right now" attitude.

I am what is called a "fascist anarchist" (sounds like a contradiction in terms, doesn't it?), or, as most people like to put it, a Social Darwinist. I believe in no political oppression, yet feel that people need to be kept in line. Not by politicians and their laws, but by the natural order. The infamous ideology of the strong over the weak, of might makes right! I get hell over this all the time. People are quickly offended and begin to preach a doctrine of living in peace, like that would be some "heaven on earth." Sorry, Charlie but I believe those to be offended are just the weak afraid of being dominated by the strong, or as I like to put it...they've never been to Jail.

Now let me explain myself, in 1989 I was arrested and falsely charged with assault and battery on a police officer. I served one year on a five year sentence before I was finally judificated (i.e. released as *not guilty*). The story of what happened to put me in that situation is actually not important. What is important is what happened to me when I was already in that situation, that led me to the belief system of Social Darwinism.

In science, it is believed that "entropy (chaos) increases in all closed systems." This is shown true in two situations, in jail and in life. Jail is a closed system, enclosed from society and giving way to chaos. I saw that jail is like the world, only in a smaller, closer space. You have racism, death, drugs, sex (both hetero- and homo-sexual), and most importantly in jail the strong dominate the weak. The weak, like in Nature, die off... ...or are KILLED OFF! I've seen actual 98-lb. weaklings turn into intellectual or physical strongmen--and those who did not, were killed.

I then realized that life is tough, and you have to be tough to survive. Now when I say "tough," I'm not talking about a Biohazard/Sick of It All "I'm a mean guy and I can kick your ass" type of tough. That's just a front put on by men and boys who couldn't fight their way out of a girls' school. I'm talking about a kind of tough that you only need to prove to yourself: When confronted, react. When left alone, leave all else alone. A kind of tough that only 1% of kids in the hardcore scene can even come close to comprehending. They listen to bands that sing about the harshness of the streets, but in reality if these bands were to witness just a sampling of what jail is like, they would either shape up and, realizing what life is all about, cut the act, or (more likely) run home to their middle class suburban homes and hide behind their mother's aprons!

I realize one main thing throughout this whole piece I've written. I could be writing a ten page essay or a three hundred page book, but the end result is still the same: those who are offended are the weak, afraid of being dominated by the strong, and those who agree and adhere to this philosophy are the strong, ready to take over this mess created by the weak that have been in power for so long! They have been pretenders to the throne for long enough! Kall-Yuga for all motherfuckers...

(Hate Mall to: PO Box 820407, South Florida, FL 33082-0407.)

#### INLAND EMPIRE ROSTER:

OVERMAN: Brian Diablodine PARTNER IN CRIME: Alexei R. LIFETIME FAN: Dwid

ERRAND BOY: Steve Peffer DARWINIST: Adel 156

GIRL I LIKE VERY MUCH: Loara Cadavona

KINKO'S FRIEND: Skinhead Shawn RECORD EXECUTIVE: Josh Baker ATLANTA KIDS: Ray & Kitty CLOTHING BY: Dickies Corporation

Thanks: The few truly responsible bands who ended up on the compilation,

those who support me across the world, anyone who hits back when hit. Fuck off: Everyone else, I guess. Whatever. Softies everywhere, liars anywhere...

#### ROOT BEER REVIEW

All I have for you this issue is a delicious recipe: take one bottle of IBC cream soda, drink one mouthful from it, and pour an equal amount of whole milk into the bottle so it is full again. The milk and soda will mix naturally, making the cream soda twice as creamy and thick...it may sound odd at first, but it's truly delicious. While I've got your attention, here's some trivia for you: major label metal band BIOHAZARD used to be nazis. My friend has their first demo, and they sing lyrics like "we'll march across the world with American Nazi pride" and "master race in unity, that's the way it oughta be." I know their label is scared as hell that someone will find out, so spread the word. (In fact, airhead pop band Ace of Base also includes former nazis, so I've heard.)

#### CENE REPORT: The Netherlands

I got this from Jan Maes of SELFWORth 'zine(Bosserveldi. 32, 6191 SK, Beek (L), the Netherlands). His first issue will be out soon. The best SXE scene there is in the south, with bands like FEEDING THE FIRE(very angry, fast socialist SXE HC, one ep & a split ep with Spawn), BACKDRAFT(members of FTF, similar style, only slower; ep on Crucial Response rec's), & new band OPERATION BLUEBOOK. Reach these bands at the address of BURIAL 'zine(Rob, Op De Knip 134, 6467 Gx Kerkrade) by Rob of FTF & Backdraft. Another new band is RANCOR(they play with a drum machine). Ironside-metal-style band PUTRIDUS split up recently. CRIVITS is a NYHC style band(Jeff, Klaas Katerstr. 7, 3119 LH Schiedam). MAINSTRIKE is a new band, kind of like Gorilla Biscults, with members of broken up classic political/socialist band Man Lifting Banner. 'ZINES:Issue 2 Of CLOSER STILL is coming, as is issue 2 of SXE zine VALUE OF STRENGTH(jp, kloosterstr. 53, 6369 AB, Simpelveld). Sander, who used to help with Closer Still, now does MONKEY (J.A. Feithstraat 43, 9725 AN Groningen) -- the first Issue has Interviews with Abhinanda, Downset, and Shortsight; DISTANCE #1 will be out soon(Ralph Wilms, Den Roover 7a, 5953 BM, Reuver) and hc-sxe 'zine REFLECTIONS #3 is out now(Johan, De Nijverheid 30, 7681 MD Vroomschoop). TREESOME is a new SXE record label, with its first release out soon. (Ferry, PO Box 5284, 6130 PG Sittard). All addresses are in The Netherlands.

INSIDE FRONT: IN CONTINAST OF SCHNE

"One of the questions was "Steve, what does straight edge mean to you?', and he answered 'Hitting people really hard, and not knowing why'."

-Dwid, apparently misquoting an interview with Steve of Confront from his own 'zine, Bloodbook #1.

"If you're a hammer, everything looks like a nail."
-Scott of Bloodlet, repeating what he said was his favorite Nietzsche quote, even though I've never seen it in any of his books..!

#### ADVERTISING

Advertising in Inside Front starts in issue #7, the first full size issue. I'm not doing this to make money(it'll just cost me more for the extra pages), but rather to make my 'zine even more informative: the idea is that maybe other people can describe their projects better themselves than I can, but they have to give me a little help with my immense production fees in return for the space. If cash is difficult for you, call and maybe we can arrange a trade. The deadline for advertising in a given issue is the last day of the month before it is scheduled to come out. I reserve the right to refuse anyone I want. These are the rates:

\$15: 5" tall by 4" wide ad, plus 20 copies of that issue, too!

\$10: 3" tall by 4" wide ad.

\$1: classified ad(30 words or less, plus your address).

MRR, watch out--now all those SXE kids that hate you have an alternative!

### CATHARSISNEWS

Catharsis is a band from North Carolina with an original, holy-terror breed of hardcore sound. Right now we have a demo available from Inland Empire(3 originals, 1 cover)...the first song from the demo is on the No Exit compilation that comes with Inside Front #4 and the second song is on the second "Over the Edge" CD compilation from Endless Fight records--both of these compilations are available now from Inland Empire. We have a new song coming out on a compilation 7" with Backlash, Integrity, and Congress on Area 51 records; that will be available from Inland Empire by April, it is our best song yet by far. In April we will also be doing shirts and stickers with Endless Fight records(we're working on making them more than just merchandise for consumption). This summer, a 7" of all new Catharsis songs will be released on Endless Fight rec's, and possibly on a different label in Europe. We'd love to play anywhere we're wanted, basically all we need is gas money and advance notice. Call Inland Empire at 919-932-6467 for booking.

INLAND EMPIRE PRODUCTIONS PERMANENT ADDRESS: 2695 Rangewood Drive, Atlanta, GA 30345 USA

My private address until 6/95: Brian/Inside Front, 213 East Franklin St. #34, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 USA. Phone 919-932-6467.